

**When your kids outgrow
forward-facing child safety seats...**

Boost 'em before you buckle 'em



Most parents believe they buckle their kids in correctly, but surprisingly, most times they're wrong.

With so many types of child safety seats and seat belt systems, it's hard to be sure child safety seats are in right. One common mistake is that parents often believe that

once their children outgrow their forward-facing child safety seats, an adult seat belt is good enough. A child who cannot sit with his or her back straight against the vehicle seat back cushion, with knees bent over a vehicle's seat edge without slouching, must use a booster seat.

The reality is that all children between about 40 to 80 lbs. and less than 4'9" tall should be in a booster seat. Adult seat belts can be dangerous when used alone if the child is too small.

The shoulder belt cuts across their necks and the lap belt rides up into their soft bellies. In a crash, this can cause serious or even fatal injuries. And many child passenger safety laws ignore children this age and size, giving parents a false sense of security.

For these children, booster seats are critical. Child safety seats – including boosters – are very effective in protecting children in crashes. A booster seat positions the adult-designed seat belt correctly and safely – and offers children greater comfort and visibility.

All children age 12 and under should sit properly restrained in the back seat. So when your kids outgrow forward-facing child safety seats, boost 'em before you buckle 'em. And get all your child safety seats inspected by a certified technician in your area.

Click on www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/childps/ or call **1-800-424-9393** for more information or to locate a trained and certified child passenger seat technician near you.